

Capitol Events to Focus On Stony Creek's Future

The future of Stony Creek as a possible part of the state's Wild and Scenic Rivers System will be the topic of two sessions on Capitol Hill.

The first will start Friday at 1 p.m. in the Capitol's media center when Clifford Jones, secretary of Environmental Resources, discusses Stony Creek at a special press conference.

With Jones will be Robert Campbell, Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. president, and members of the Stony Creek Valley Coalition.

On Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the hearing room of the Capitol Annex, the House Conservation Committee will consider a bill to make Stony Creek a part of the state wilderness system.

The proposed legislation, HB

1843, would implement a recent recommendation by DER that the creek be designated a wild river.

The legislation was introduced last month by Reps. Jeffrey Piccola, R-Susquehanna Twp., and Joseph Manmiller, R-West Hanover Twp., in anticipation of a favorable DER decision.

"We wanted to act as swiftly as possible on this bill," Piccola said. "By introducing it in October, we're a lot farther along now than we would have been if we had waited until DER made its recommendations."

If the Legislature votes to include the creek in the scenic system, land and water management guidelines will protect the valley's existing character.